

**Arden Civic Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

7:30 p.m. via Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order****Approval of May 12, 2020 Minutes****Categories**

- Administrative
  - Email Account Active
  - Committee Vacancy
  - Request for Road Maintenance Log
- Roads / Drainage
  - Speed Hump at The Highway
  - Repainting Directional Arrows
  - Request for Competitive Quotes
- Projects / Grants
- Maintenance Projects
  - Road Sign Replacements
  - Broken Fence on Lower Lane
  - Entrance Stile Steps
  - Trash Can Holders
  - Missing Plexiglass Cover at The Buzz
- Tree Work
  - Pine Trees on Village Green
  - Meadow Lane Sycamore
  - Downed Limbs
- Greens
  - Sherwood Green (Request for reconditioning/reseeding and reduced parking)
  - Lilac Planting
  - Red Maple Planting
  - Signage for Walt Whitman and Soldiers & Sailors Memorials
  - Maintenance of Public Area at 4-Way Stop (Lower Ln, Millers Rd., Walnut Ln.)
  - Tree Ivy Growth
- Seasonal Contract Oversight
  - Snow Removal: Prep Fee Refund
  - Waste Management: Trash Can Doors, Lid Ties
  - Mowing (Add Lower/Millers/Walnut parcel?)
- Miscellaneous
  - Leasehold Right of Way Determination

**Other Old Business****New Business****Adjourn****Zoom Meeting Information****Meeting Link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/480638894?pwd=SEE5dEZmN09jaFNQeUZCSE1OWIFsUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 480 638 894**Password:** 537947**One tap mobile**

+13126268799,,480638894# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,480638894# US (New York)

This information is also online  
at [www.arden.delaware.gov](http://www.arden.delaware.gov) on  
the Civic Page.

Attendance - Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, & Harold Kalmus

Absent - Mark Wood

Guest - Brooke Bovard, Chairman of Safety Committee

Call to Order: Steve Benigni convened Zoomed meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: As per Carol Larson's request to amend minutes to identify the bush in front of azalea at the Stile is a serviceberry bush. Amended minutes approved.

- Administrative

- E-mails Accounts Active.

- Steve offered to CC members on his response to senders of Civic email.  
Accepted.

- Committee Vacancy

- Rick Ferrell is considering whether to accept nomination for position vacated by Mick Fitzharris. If Rick is not interested, Carol Larson will contact Ed Rohrbach.

- Request for road maintenance log. Currently, no log has been maintained.

- As far as anyone knows, not sure if there was ever a log, or maybe there was years ago.

- Road/Drainage

- Speed bumps at the Highway

Smith Paving does not take into account the slope of roads when repaving, which results in speed bumps becoming shallower, sides of roads are lost, water pattern changes (which can be a safety issue) and some leaseholds become flooded due to the buildup of layers of asphalt. It's a double edge sword in that it is an inexpensive way to repair roads.

Recommendation: Start a new road paving policy going forward to minimize this kind of problem.

- Repainting of directional arrows

Confirmed that Civic Committee is responsible for one-way arrows painted at Orleans- Millers Rds., and Sherwood - Marsh Rds. Whereas, Safety Committee is responsible for rights-of-way and all traffic control signs (speed limit, arrows, signs with a white, yellow or gold background).

Brooke believes the current one-way painted arrows are not to code because they are painted yellow as opposed to being white. Refer to MUTCO (manual on uniform traffic control devices which specifies the standards by which traffic signs, road surface markings, and signals are designed, installed and used). Decision: Repaint the fading arrows in the color that meets MUTCO code. Approved.

- Request Competitive quotes

- Projects/Grants

- Maintenance Projects

- Road Sign Replacements

- Steve walked around town to observe what signs needed replacement. He took pictures and sent them to all members and he believes many are in bad shape. He also contacted Cheryl Regan, who recommended Delaware Correctional Industries, who will be sending cost information. Two things need to be decided: 1) Do we use the same people that Ardentown used to replace their signs? 2) Do we replace one sign at a time or in batches? All dependent upon cost estimate before going forward. Reminded by Brooke, MUTCO guidelines and ADA compliance need to be observed. Civic believes Arden signage is consistent with their arts and craft tradition and would like to continue with same signage. Brooke points out that we might be at some kind of risk of enforcement action if we continue not being up to code. She encourages Civic members to read the code and understand where Civic signage departs from code and be prepared to answer any questions about deviance. The committee understands compliance and that is why they are selecting a more visible signage like Ardentown recently installed. Carol recommends bringing this to Town Assembly as to whether to conform to code or to continue with traditional signage. Need more information about costs and then will decide.
- Broken Fence on Lower Lane  
Fencing down by the stile has been repaired.
- Entrance Stile Steps - Harold sent a note to Dave Clancy and as of yet not heard back from him. Harold will keep group posted on status.
- Trash Can Holders

Harold waiting for a quote from Ken Morrison.

- Missing Plexiglass Cover at the Buzz

Denis O'Regan said it is on order. Carol will approach Denis one more time before going elsewhere.

- Tree work

- Pine trees on Village Green

Pine tree on Village Green near Soldiers Memorial has a limb that overhangs the powerlines. Carol Larson disagrees that the limb is the issue. She believes the problem is the split in the double tree leader branch that needs monitoring. This is Arden's jurisdiction. Carol Larson will take care of it.

- Meadow Lane Sycamore

Sycamore tree on Meadow Lane - There are concerns that a limb will fall on powerlines. Trunk of tree is in Ardencroft. Carol recommends acquiring a tree risk assessment & she agreed to take care of this.

Any overhang into one's leasehold is the responsibility of the leaseholder.

- Ash Trees

About 5 or 6 ash trees in the right-of-way need to be treated for Emerald Ash borer. Approx. cost \$50 - \$75/ per tree. Approved.

- Downed Limbs

Mandy's landscaper was dumping yard waste into the woods near the Memorial Garden. Carol contacted the tenant to inform them that this was not our policy and was not acceptable. Seems to be addressed.

Same property overgrown at Harvey and the Sweep makes it difficult for cars turning onto Harvey. And Hillside & Millers hard to see for pull out. Brook agrees Safety Committee will take care of it.

- Greens

- Sherwood Green (Request for reconditioning/reseeding and reduced parking

Planning in the fall to reseed. Parking policy is Community Planning's responsibility which has been an ongoing work-in-progress.

- Lilac Planting - They were planted.

- Red Maple – Due to concern about hot weather, planting postponed until the fall.

- Signage for Walt Whitman and Solder's & Sailors Memorial

Steve contacted a local marker company and they are going to send him some information. In the meantime, he favors the bronze plaque as opposed to a wood sign that has a limited time line. Each memorial has a rock in front to which a bronze plaque can be attached. Rick Rothrock is willing to advise on how to adhere plaque to a rock. Harold would like a little more history & also to identify the specific plantings that are part of memorial than just the name of the memorial etched on stone or plaque.

Check with Archives about what is relevant for plaque. Harold will come up with some kind of signage design.

- Maintenance of Public Areas at 4-way- stop (Lower Ln, Millers Rd, Walnut Ln)

American Mowing (Shawn van Neerden) - Shawn cleared the 4-way-stop. Also thinks that it was Shawn who lopped off the top of the dogwood and it is questionable if that was necessary. Carol would like from now on that Shawn first check with her as to what needs to be trimmed or removed. She will talk with him.

The circles have been historically maintained by the leaseholders and the committee decided to continue with that tradition.

Agreed to go ahead with Mike Cline's proposal (a 1,000 Hands Landscaping) to clear out area around the Soldier's Memorial. Carol would like to test various landscaper contractors to see how they perform. More importantly, use those we trust and see if they do a good job.

- Tree Ivy Growth - Carol removed some ivy: it's a work-in-progress.
- Seasonal Contract Oversight
  - Waste Management: Trash Can Doors, Lids & Ties

- Miscellaneous

- Leasehold right-of-way determination

Steve is receiving conflicting information about how to measure width of right-of-way. The Ordinance 11 lists the width of all the roads. Jeffrey Politis suggests calculating (divide width in half or measure from middle of road to edge). Carol Larson recommends this method.

There is a slight difference between Ordinance 11, dated 1981, and Ordinance 11, dated 2009. One difference is responsibility of trees on the right-of-way. One ordinance indicates Civic Committee is responsible and the other ordinance indicates it's Safety Committee. Brooke explains that responsibility transferred from Civic Committee to Safety, but the budget did not transfer along with responsibility. Because the money never moved over to Safety Committee, Civic Committee continued to be responsible for trees on the right-of-way. Since then, Safety deals with traffic visibility in the right-of-way; and when it comes to large hazardous trees that are possibly going to fail, then it would be Civic's responsibility. This has been the acceptable practice and it will continue until an update is provided.

- Basketball Hoop (a right-of-way of a temporary structure)

Civic Committee Chairman Steven received a lengthy letter and email from the Borders expressing safety concerns about a basketball hoop that has been installed by their next-door neighbor, the Ferrells, on the right-of-way at the end of Cherry Lane. The Borders driveway is part of the basketball court. It is being used by the public. The Borders have safety concerns because of Covid-19 and noticed the teenagers are not wearing masks and



are not distancing themselves. In addition, there is potential damage to their cars and to kids hanging out on part of their property. The Ferrells are willing to make some adjustments, but the Borders want the hoop moved to the Ferrell's driveway on Green Lane. At this point they are at a stalemate and that is why they have reached out to the committee. Brooke, Chair of Safety Committee, agreed this is a safety issue and she will address it. There are two other basketball hoops in town; one located Orleans and Harvey. A real safety problem if someone turns quickly from Harvey onto Orleans, they could hit someone because hoop set up close to corner. The other basketball hoop is on pole on Green, across from Politis's leasehold.

Meeting adjourned 9: 04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Resko,

Village Secretary.